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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 454

September 18, 1942

U.S. SIGNS PACT TO BUY MEXICAN AND GUATEMALAN SURPLUS RUBBER. State Department announces that Rubber Reserve Co. will purchase all rubber not required for essential domestic purposes. Purchases will continue until December 31, 1946. Under the terms of the Mexican agreement, the Rubber Reserve Company will establish a "substantial development" fund to obtain maximum production of wild rubber in Mexico. In all, 14 agreements have been made since the Board of Economic Warfare and the RFC Rubber Reserve Company began looking for rubber in Latin American republics. (Washington Post)

FORMATION OF AN EMERGENCY GROUP FOR IMPORTERS OF FATS AND OILS announced by Board of Economic Warfare and the Commodity Credit Corporation of the Department of Agriculture. Plan to establish a wartime association of importers in these lines is designed to recruit the experience and facilities of all private importers in the foreign vegetable oil trade for government aid in importing commodities needed in the war effort. (N.Y. Times)

U.S.-ARGENTINE SHIP PROBLEMS STUDIED. Vice Admiral Francisco Stewart arrives in United States for conferences with Rear Admiral Emory S. Land on shipping problems. His visit, he explained, is primarily to work out the most "efficient" method of using available Argentine merchant shipping in trade with the United States. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CENTRAL AMERICAN TREE YIELDS GUM GUIAIC, a new food preservative. The juice keeps fats from becoming rancid or from losing their palatability. Another application is likely to be to dehydrated fruits and vegetables. Applied to impregnate paper wrappings of fatty foods, the juice would also serve to prevent fats from soaking through. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

LATIN-AMERICAN SECTION ADDED TO N.Y. BOARD OF TRADE to foster inter-American trade and friendship. Aim of new section is to "bring about a concerted effort on the part of those engaged in Latin American trade to provide a clearing house of Latin American trade information, import and export regulations, etc; to enlist public understanding in the problems and needs of Latin American business and commerce as a vital part of our national economy, . . . and to further closer co-operation between those engaged in Latin American trade and public officials." (Christian Science Monitor)

ARGENTINE EXPORT FIGURES IN CHEMICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS INCREASE from 1,028,378 pesos in 1939 to 6,132,418 pesos in 1940 and 19,300,827 pesos in 1941. This group includes cologne, soap, pure alcohol, stearic acid, medicinal herbs and specifics. (Official Report from Buenos Aires)

ARGENTINA ESTABLISHES CORPORATION TO DEVELOP OLIVE CULTIVATION. The new corporation, under the Sub-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, will be responsible for organizing the production and sale of olive trees at economical prices, supplying growers with practical and technical advice and instruction, and organizing the industrialization of the olive by means of the establishment of regional factories. The Banco de la Nación will place at the disposal of the Corporation credit facilities amounting to 2 million pesos. (Official Report from Buenos Aires)

ARGENTINA RATIOS MOTOR GASOLINE. The Congress has under consideration a proposal to utilize potatoes, maize, barley, other grains and excess raw materials in the manufacture of alcohol. It is intended to produce an annual minimum of about 30,000,000 gallons of alcohol for mixing with gasoline to alleviate the light fuel problem in the country. The plan contemplates management of the distilleries by the Ministry of Agriculture. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINA AIDS SMALL FARMERS by instituting 2 new systems of rural loans at low rates of interest, according to report from Buenos Aires. Loans will be granted up to a maximum of one thousand pesos (about \$240) for the purchase of two or three cows, five or six pigs, some poultry, and seed for vegetables and fodder. The other system for farmers able to prove a reasonable measure of solvency, grants loans of up to 5,000 pesos to be used preferably in the purchase of pigs, sheep, and cows. (N.Y. Times)

BOLIVIA TRANSPORTS MEAT BY AIR from Beni, in the northeast, to La Paz. Meat is cheap in the Beni region, but scarce and expensive in the capital. So the Government of Bolivia has launched an experimental air-freight program to bring fresh meat and other foodstuffs from Beni to La Paz. (N.Y. Times)

U.S. MAY AID BRAZIL IN DEVELOPMENT OF VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTION as result of findings of a mission of vegetable oil technicians headed by Charles E. Lund, chief of the fats and oils section of the Department of Commerce and Dr. George S. Jamieson, senior chemist of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering of the Department of Agriculture. Declaring that Brazilian raw material resources of vegetable oil bearing raw materials "are so tremendous that they stagger the imagination," Mr. Lund said, "billions of babassu palm trees are concentrated in the northern tropical states of Maranhão, Piauí and Pará." Lack of adequate transportation, and insufficient labor are the principal obstacles to large-scale development. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CUBA PRESENTED WITH WAR PROGRAM which includes legislation for creation of maritime and agricultural schools and building up of merchant marine, as well as acquisition of planes and surface craft for convoy duty. (N.Y. Times)

PACT SIGNED WITH GUATEMALA under which Rubber Reserve Co. will purchase all rubber produced in Guatemala not required for essential domestic purposes. Purchases will continue until December 1946. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICAN RAILWAY USED TO SUPPLANT SHIPS, according to H. E. Chenoweth. The commercial agent for the Mexican Government Railway System states that a carload of copper sulphate to be used in combatting banana blights has already been shipped over the road. At the same time he declares that shipment of chinchona bark can be increased from northern Guatemala at rates that compare favorably with steamer rates. The present bottleneck in the overland route to Guatemala is at the Mexican Guatemala border, where shipments must be unloaded from the train at Suchiate, placed in motor trucks, and carried to the Suchiate River over which the cargo is carried in barges. Ox carts pick up the cargo from the barges and take it to Ayuta, where it is placed on the Guatemalan narrow gauge railway. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO PLANS TO BUILD SHIPYARD AT TAMPICO for coastwise vessels and deep sea craft. President Avila Camacho sees in plan a solution to Mexico's acute shipping problem and an aid to employment of port workers. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

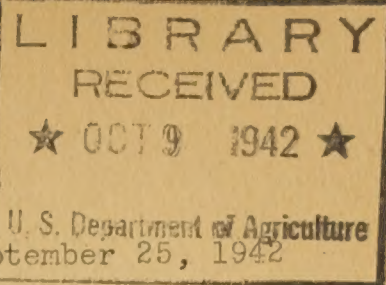
IMPORTATION OF 1,500 MEXICAN FARM WORKERS approved by War Manpower Commission to meet emergency in California sugar-beet harvest. Certification was made to the Farm Security Administration. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PANAMA AND COSTA RICA TO PRODUCE MANILA FIBER according to report of Combined Raw Materials Board on its program of finding enough rope to meet the demands of the United Nations. Although manila has never been grown commercially in the Western Hemisphere before the launching of this program, newly cleared jungle land in the 20,000-acre Panama-Costa Rica project is being seeded at the rate of several hundred acres a week. Experiments with abacá from which manila fiber comes indicate that the 20,000-acre project "will provide comparatively small but important new source of supply for the fiber." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

VENEZUELAN PAPERS CUT NUMBER OF PAGES because of recent United States ruling to reduce shipments of newsprint 30 percent. Most newspapers in the country have already been reduced 25 to 40 percent since January because of the scarcity of paper and lag in advertising. (N.Y. Times)

AGRICULTURAL COLONIES ESTABLISHED IN VENEZUELA for several thousand employees discharged by petroleum companies. An agreement between government and company officials, the plan will relieve economic strain caused by curtailment of Venezuelan petroleum production and supply foodstuffs now impossible to obtain because of reduced shipping. (N.Y. Times)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

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LATIN AMERICAN PROGRESS IN INDUSTRIALIZATION advancing rapidly according to survey by Pan American Union. Increase in domestic industry is particularly impressive in Brazil and Argentina. Brazil concentrates on steel and cement production, while Argentina supplies three-fourths of the world's exports of chilled beef and is developing a textile industry so rapidly that it already supplies about 40 percent of its cotton cloth requirements, 60 percent of the linen and approximately 85 percent of the demand for woolen goods. (Christian Science Monitor)

U.S.-LATIN TRADE STEADILY INCREASING according to annual economic survey of Latin America. In 1941 the United States took 19 percent more of Argentina's total exports than in the previous year, 14.6 percent more of Brazil's exports, 22 percent more of Costa Rica's, 7.5 percent more of Colombia's, and 3.2 percent more of Cuba's. Bolivia's imports of manufactured products, comprising 62 percent of the country's total import values of 1941, were practically all purchased in the United States, while 54 percent of the value of Bolivian tin exports (77 percent of her total exports) were sold to the United States. Paralleling the growth of trade with North American markets was an intensification of the commerce of these six nations with the other Latin American countries. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

INTRA-LATIN AMERICAN TRADE UP. That lack of ocean shipping is increasing the exchange of goods among Central American countries is indicated by the fact that since the first of January Honduras has imported goods amounting to more than \$135,000 from El Salvador. The imports are largely cotton goods and other fabrics, shoes, liquor, and rope. The amounts are increasing daily. (N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINE CARPET WOOLS REMAIN "FROZEN," since importations are not now permitted for carpet use, and the wools are not selling for other purposes. Medium sized amounts of Buenos Aires 6s, twelve months, could be granted import licenses if for use in the making of apparel and not floor coverings, but there is no guarantee that shipping space ahead would be available. Recent reports from the Argentine market are to the effect that coarse wools are being purchased at current lower prices as a speculation, discounting the possibility that the Government's wool buying proposal will eventually become a reality. (Journal of Commerce)

NEW BOOKLET ON BRAZILIAN COFFEE issued by the National Coffee Department of Brazil in New York, to explain and emphasize the work it is carrying on to improve the quality of coffee through the application of scientific methods. (Journal of Commerce)

U.S. TRADE COORDINATION COMMITTEE TO AID BRAZIL. This special mission of industrial engineers is headed by Morris L. Cooke, an expert on fuel and electrical power. Basic objectives of the mission are to increase Brazilian production of essential products, convert industries to use of substitute materials in place of former imports, improve transportation, and undertake to strengthen foundations for long-range development of Brazilian industry. (Export Trade and Shipper-September 21)

U.S.-BRAZIL SIGN AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF FOOD PRODUCTION in northern Brazil where the necessity of a food program has become urgent as a result of the strategic position of the region for the defense of the Western Hemisphere and for development of rubber, vegetable oils, and other tropical products. (Export Trade and Shipper-September 21)

FIRST INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY closes its meetings in Santiago, Chile. The work accomplished included establishment of "the first social security code adapted to economic and social conditions in the American countries." Another resolution recommended full social security assistance to domestics, farm workers, the self-employed, and those in professions. A permanent committee was established. (N.Y. Times)

COLOMBIA ESTABLISHES TWENTY-FIVE NEW VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR AGRICULTURE according to Doctor Germán Arciniegas, former Minister of Education of Colombia, and at present visiting professor at Columbia University in New York. (N.Y. Times)

SANITARY CONDITIONS IN CUBA threatened by lack of petroleum which has halted customary measures against mosquitoes and has made it impossible to burn garbage. Complaints pour in concerning paralyzation of sanitation measures, particularly the collection of garbage because of the lack of tires and gasoline. An increase of typhoid and malaria is reported from the interior. (N.Y. Times)

DOMINICAN POLICY OF AGRICULTURAL INTENSIFICATION assures means of subsistence, according to the President, General Rafael L. Trujillo, who states that the Republic is in a position to supply Puerto Rico with all the livestock that its population needs if given the necessary facilities. The lack of an adequate ration of gasoline, however, makes transportation of foodstuffs and other materials from the interior extremely difficult, and is the chief handicap in supply. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO TO SPEND 4 MILLION PESOS ON RUBBER PROJECT. During the next six months it is expected that 25,000 budded "Hevea Brasiliensis" trees will be ready for distribution and that during the following 12 months nearly a quarter million trees will be available to be budded to the improved clones. It is estimated that the first 25,000 budded trees will in eight years yield an average of 1,200 kilos of dry rubber per hectare. If the experiment is successful, demand for cultivation and tapping equipment is foreseen. (Export Trade and Shipper - September 21)

VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE PROPOSES SEVEN MEXICAN FREEDOMS in speech celebrating Mexico's Independence Day. To the four freedoms suggested by President Roosevelt, Mr. Wallace added the freedom to buy land at a reasonable price, the freedom to borrow money at a reasonable rate of interest, and the freedom to establish schools which teach the realities of life. "Farmers and workers of Mexico are standing shoulder to shoulder with their brothers on our side of the border," said Mr. Wallace, citing Mexican production of metals, fibers, lumber, and drugs; the arrangement to ship guayule rubber to the United States; and the plans to bring Mexican workers into this country's harvest fields -- "not on the basis of low-wage competition as in the past, but with the wholehearted assistance and protection of the two governments." (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO REPORTS DECREASE IN CUSTOMS RECEIPTS. The Ministry of Finance states that receipts of the Vera Cruz customs house from imports, exports, and coastwise services fees set a new low in the month of August, as a result of the diversion of practically all Mexico's international business to overland routes. (Journal of Commerce)

U.S. EXPERTS STUDY VENEZUELAN CATTLE REGIONS on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture. Headed by Dr. Otto Hunziker and Ralph Hodgson of the United States Department of Agriculture, the technical mission returned to Caracas after an exhaustive study of the means of increasing meat and dairy herds and will advise the ministry accordingly. (N.Y. Times)

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND SPAIN provides for the exportation of coffee and fruits to Spain in return for oil and olives. Spanish ships will be used. Spain agrees gradually to free frozen Venezuelan funds. (N.Y. Times)

VENEZUELA ENCOURAGING NEW INDUSTRIES to supply country's essential needs. A list of industries considered indispensable to the economy of the nation includes production of seed oils and grease for cooking. The Ministry of Agriculture has developed a sesame seed which gives several times the amount of oil derived from ordinary varieties. This oil is needed for the fish canning industry which has begun in Venezuela recently. Fertilizer and animal fodder, both of which can be derived from residues of the vegetable oil industry, are other vital requirements. Other needs are powdered milk and pharmaceutical products, particularly quinine. (N.Y. Times)

NEW VEGETABLE FROM VENEZUELA. Discovery of a root which is 85 percent starch, 9 percent protein and less than 1 percent sugar has been announced by Llewelyn Williams, chief of Botanical Exploration for the Venezuelan Government and member of the staff of the Chicago Field Museum, who has just returned to Caracas from seven months exploration of the headwaters of the Río Negro. The root which is large and bulbous and is 93.5 edible, is known as ame or as zamia. It is a member of the cycad family. Important as a possible source of starch to replace the supply cut off from the Allies in the Far East, fast growing ame can be produced throughout Venezuela. By combining ame with regular white flour in a 35 percent mixture, a bread which is reportedly tasteful and highly nourishing may be produced; it is to be preferred over the yucca or manioc used by the natives for bread, because yucca contains a portion of prussic acid while ame does not. The new plant has no flavor, according to report. (Christian Science Monitor)

